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BULLETIN



OF

THE PENNSYLVANIA MUSEUM MEMORIAL HALL, FAIRMOUNT PARK

July 1, 1904

PHILADELPHIA

No. 7

Membership

[Extract from the report of President Search, read at the annual meeting,
June 13, 1904.]

The great success of an organization lies primarily in its membership. From this source comes the public sentiment and inspiration which must underlie every successful public enterprise. Without a strong membership it is not possible to properly impress, safeguard and guide any great public benefaction.

From the membership ranks come the selection of those officials whose duty it is to promote and direct the public work. From the membership is derived the moral and financial power, which is absolutely necessary to the proper conduct of the activities belonging to the organizations, and, finally, without such membership, support weakens, progress gradually loses its initiative and enterprise halts and fails because the element of human sympathy and support is lacking. These things being assumed to be truths, it then follows that the membership of all public organizations becomes an incentive to success, and therefore worthy of close and earnest consideration.

In 1877 the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art was inaugurated for the promotion of work of a specific character, a work destined to influence the artistic taste and sentiment of this country. During the intervening years its purposes have remained true to the original idea, and the School has assumed a dignity and importance far beyond the hopes of its founders.

Its work in applied art, as shown by its exhibits in the various crafts, such as pottery, bookbinding, woodworking, modeling, decoration, illumination, color work, architecture, spinning, dyeing, weaving and finishing of all kinds of textiles, is a revelation to all who see them. The possibilities of a wonderful system of practical training are fully demonstrated; that such a work should not be assisted and sustained by a membership of

a large and powerful personality cannot for a moment be entertained.

The recent success of the School of Pottery, established only five months ago, seems to emphasize this conclusion. There is no doubt but this work is a great success, and Philadelphia will doubtless become the home of an industry to which it has hitherto been a stranger, and one which is destined to give it glory and renown. Is there a good citizen of Philadelphia who would not desire to assist in a work which produces such tremendous possibilities? Surely no one can withhold his hand where the objects to be gained are only those which reflect glory and honor upon our city! Good citizens are everywhere to be found, who are waiting and anxious to be a part of a body which seeks nothing for itself but everything for the cause. The only thing lacking is the solicitation of those who already understand the objects of the organization to explain and request co-operation.

Friends of the School can do this to the greatest advantage. The solicitude of those who know the truth whereof they speak is infinitely more valuable than that of a solicitor who must be paid to perform his work. How much time and effort would it cost the hundreds of friends of our School and Museum to simply request their friends to join our ranks and become annual supporters, not merely by the payment of \$10, but to encourage the work by their presence and advice?

It is easily possible, as we believe, for 1000 new members, at \$10 per annum, to be obtained during the present year by those who have shown themselves to be friends and warm supporters of the work. This would mean a \$10,000 membership fund and great possibilities of larger service for a greater Museum and School. There is no preparation for the work necessary. The request is made to our officers and members to consider this a personal duty for the summer, to be followed by a report to the Executive Committee at its first meeting in the fall of 1904.